

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 024973

42

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

P - MR. SISCO

S/S -O: A.OTTO

NSC -B. MC FARLANE

----- 003139

O 011947Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024973

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR ASAD ON RABIN'S VISIT

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT
ASAD:

2. WITH RABIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAVING ENDED,
I WISH ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD TO GIVE
PRESIDENT ASAD A REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS DURING THE VISIT.
THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE FURTHER SESSION WITH
RABIN NEXT WEEK IN LOS ANGELES. WASHINGTON TALKS WERE
VERY DIFFICULT, BUT WE MAY HAVE MADE SOME LIMITED PROGRESS.

3. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH RABIN COVERED FULL RANGE OF
MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, INCLUDING QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS.
PRESIDENT ASAD SHOULD KNOW, IN ALL FRANKNESS, THAT RABIN
CAME HERE WITH AN ESSENTIALLY STAND-PAT POSITION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 024973

PRESIDENT FORD MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZE RABIN

HAS DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES ON THIS SCORE, WE CANNOT
ACCEPT STAGNATION AND STALEMATE BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE
CONTRARY TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.
STANDING STILL DURING 1976 IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE,
WE TOLD RABIN, BECAUSE IT WOULD ERODE THE POSSIBILITIES
FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND LEAD TO DETERIORATION

OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. FOLLOWING ON THE TALKS WE HAVE HAD HERE, WE INTEND
NOW TO DEVELOP SOME IDEAS, BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE
IN CHARACTER, THAT WE WILL PURSUE FURTHER WITH THE
ISRAELIS IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. AFTER

FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH THE ISRAELIS I WILL BE ASKING
AMBASSADOR MURPHY TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON SO THAT HE
WILL BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE PRESIDENT ASAD A FIRST-
HAND ACCOUNT ABOUT WHERE MATTERS STAND.

5. I HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE TO PRESIDENT ASAD ABOUT THE
IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING DOMESTIC OPINION IN THE UNITED
STATES TO DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE HAVE A GOOD
BASIS OF SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS WE HAVE DETERMINED
TO MAKE TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I HAVE BEEN
GRATIFIED OVER THE RECENT PAST TO NOTE THAT THIS PROCESS
SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE CONTINUING. THE RECENT SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING AND THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN
HAVE NATURALLY LED TO CONSIDERABLE COMMENTARY IN THE
PRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE GENERAL
TENOR OF MUCH OF THIS COMMENTARY HAS BEEN THAT ISRAEL
MUST FACE UP TO THE QUESTION OF MAKING PEACE,
PARTICULARLY THE ISSUE OF THE PALESTINIANS. I AM MORE
THAN EVER ENCOURAGED, THEREFORE, TO BELIEVE THAT WE
WILL BE ABLE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, TO MAKE THE DETERMINED
EFFORT WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO MAKE.

6. THE SECRETARY SENDS HIS REGARDS TO PRESIDENT ASAD. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE024973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaadeiz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <21 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <19 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR ASAD ON RABIN'S VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, US, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (RABIN, YITZHAK), (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006